

COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS



A TRADITIONAL TRADE BETWEEN TRIBES

On December 4, employees from the CTFW Department and Food Distribution traveled to the Fort Hall Reservation in Idaho to meet with staff from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The three-day trip involved a presentation by the tribe, a tour of Fort Hall Bottoms (where the buffalo roam) and harvesting of two buffalo for Colville tribal members to bring home. Earlier this year, Shoshone-Bannock tribal members fished with CCT fisheries staff and brought home about 3,000 pounds of salmon that was distributed to their tribal members.

"I have met Chairman Small and we intend to continue this relationship," said John Sirois, chairman of the Colville Business Council. "We are thankful for this gift of bison and thankful that this traditional trade that began this year will benefit many tribal members."

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Fort Hall Reservation is approximately 544,000 acres located in SE Idaho. The tribe has 5,770 enrolled members. They have just over 300 head of buffalo and have been raising buffalo since the early 60's. The Tribes raise the bulls for meat for their restaurants and ceremonies. "The buffalo is spiritual to the Shoshone and Bannock people," said Claudio M. Broncho, Fish and Wildlife policy representative for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. "I think the

wild foods we eat traditionally are better for our health. The things we gather, the plants, birds, fish, animals and the earth are a blessing to our tribes and we pray they will always be there for us."

"I had a great time visiting with these folks," said Rick Desautel, animal control technician for CCT. "We were treated very well and it felt like home. We drove out to the pasture and selected two bulls, the animals were skinned in the field, taken on the truck and later carved into quarters and we loaded them in big bags. We brought the meat back to a local butcher to do the rest."

"The meat will be put in the "ceremonial locker," a place where meat is stored for use during the rest period of big game," said Randy Friedlander, interim CTFW director.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



For Additional Information Contact:

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Randy Friedlander,
interim Director of Fish and Wildlife
1 Colville Street PO Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155
randall.friedlander@colvilletribes.com

Bonneville Power Administration

Linda Hermeston, Project Manager
905 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
llhermeston@bpa.gov

Tetra Tech

John McGlenn, PE
1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98101
john.mcglennt@tetratech.com



Fish Culturist Lincoln Feddersen and Maintenance Tech Joe Condon monitor water flows as they fill up one of the rearing ponds for the first time.

PASSING THE BATON

Construction of a majority of the Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) facilities is now completed or nearing completion. Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) staff are completing operational training in preparation for the first year of operation in 2013. On November 1, the hatchery building, office and storage buildings, raceways, and the potable water system were certified "substantially complete". Then, on November 29, the process water headworks, the groundwater system, cleaning waste ponds and SCADA (the computer control system for the entire hatchery) were certified "substantially complete".

"Final operational testing is a very demanding process for the various teams," said John McGlenn, project engineer for Tetra Tech. "All parties are putting in long hours working through tough technical issues to prepare for a smooth hand-off from contractor to owner."

Over the past two months, there have been many days of testing, fine tuning and training by the contractor, PCL, and their sub-contractors in preparation for completion of the project. CJH is now 92% complete.

STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Remaining construction activities are now concentrated on completion of the adult holding facilities and spawning building near the ladder and the reservoir water system through the dam. The reservoir water supply system was described in detail in the last newsletter. The early portion of this work is moving along with the key underwater pour of the two-foot thick bulkhead scheduled for the first half of December.

Teams of divers that are experienced in underwater construction and certified for work on federal facilities like the Chief Joseph Dam are essential to complete the reservoir water system. The kinds of tasks they have to complete underwater are:

- Construction of a steel barrier to protect divers in the work zone from rolling rock
- Cleaning and improving the existing guide slots for a new maintenance gate
- Drilling concrete and installing steel dowels with epoxy for new concrete bulkhead
- Placement of steel forms and reinforcing steel for the bulkhead

- Placement of concrete by means of high pressure hoses to ports in the form
- Coring a 34-inch diameter hole in a 15-inch thick concrete wall for the reservoir water intake pipe

Construction is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of May 2013 in time to receive returning spring Chinook broodstock. This event will mark another milestone toward restoration of greater Chinook runs to the region.



Workers lower the intake screen into position. Divers will bolt the frame to the dam.



Staff training was held on the Automated Transfer Switch system for backup generators at each of the 5 well buildings.

GRAY WOLF UPDATE

In an attempt to manage gray wolf populations on the Colville Indian Reservation, CCT Wildlife staff presented a gray wolf harvest option recently to the Colville Business Council (CBC). CBC approved the plan to allow tribal members to harvest nine gray wolves this season.

John Sirois, chairman of the Colville Business Council says, “Our desire is to manage wolf populations on our reservation in conjunction with other uses and land management objectives, and we will continue to monitor the hunt and adopt our management program as appropriate.”

This year, CCT Wildlife biologists have captured and collared three gray wolves, two in June (a young female and male) and another in September (adult female) to monitor their movements and define home ranges. They have also been surveying the membership/public over the last year to get a feel for what the public believes should happen regarding wolves on the reservation. According to Randy Friedlander, interim CTFW director, the survey showed that 60% of the tribal membership wants wolves here. The survey and a wolf reporting form have been posted

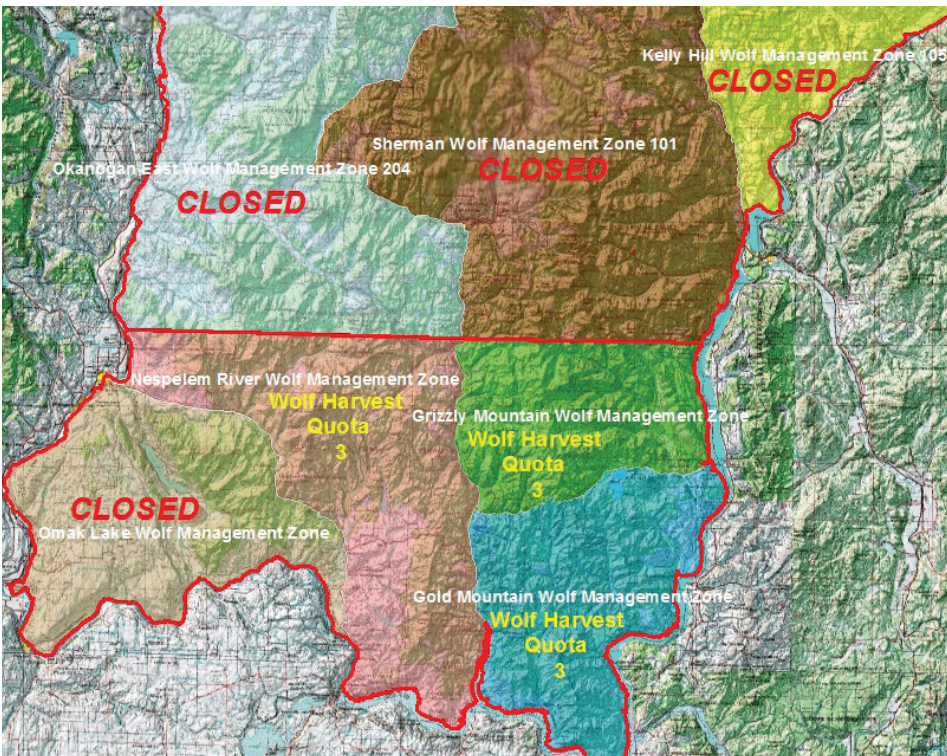
on the tribe’s website for several months to gather opinions and any information on wolf sightings. Wildlife staff also attends district meetings to hear from the public.

“What I have heard most from the membership is concerns regarding public safety and will the wolves eat all the big game,” said Friedlander. “To date, 246 people have taken the survey. Many people have seen wolves and some have had encounters, but none have been threatening. We know that the wolves eat big game as do other predators and that is why we initiated a wolf hunt.” He said, “We are not so concerned as to the number of packs as to the density of wolves. We are attempting to keep the wolves at a level that doesn’t affect the tribal membership’s ability to hunt big game for subsistence.”

“The Colville people were some of the first stewards of the land, and the return of the wolf to our reservation is both culturally and ecologically significant.”

– John Sirois, Chairman of the Colville Business Council

WOLF HARVEST QUOTA GUIDELINES



- Only Colville tribal members will be allowed to hunt these animals by resolution 2012-768. Wolf harvest quotas will be set annually for each wolf management zone. Wolf Management zones that do not have any confirmed wolves occurring within their boundaries, for any portion of the year, will not have a harvest quota and will be closed to hunting or trapping of gray wolves.

- Zones that have wolves in sufficient numbers for any portion of the year will have a harvest quota in order to meet management objectives that are suitable for maintaining healthy abundant ungulate populations, while maintaining the integrity of the pack whenever possible. **Harvesting collared wolves is not allowed.**

- Current quotas include the harvest of 3 wolves in each of the Gold Mountain, Grizzly Mountain, and Nespelem River Wolf Management Zones. Total Harvest will be 9 wolves. The Omak Lake Zone will not have a quota at this time.

- All harvested wolves must be reported to F&W as soon as possible and sealed within 72 hours of the harvest. Once quotas are met for any given zone, that zone will be closed until the next season.

Wolf harvest information will be updated on the tribe’s website at www.colvilletribes.com and can be found on facebook at CCT F&W. Information will also be broadcasted through the tribal broadcast system. If you have questions, contact Randy Friedlander, Interim F&W Director at 634.2113.



Jim Smith and Randy Friedlander

LONG TERM EMPLOYEES RETIRE

JIM SMITH, Wildlife enforcement technician, has retired after working for the Colville Tribe for over 28 years. Smith has worked for F&W since 1995. As a lead technician he performs a variety of tasks associated with the management of wildlife resources to determine numbers, environmental conditions and the condition of species. His responsibilities included data collection on habitat conditions, location of species, survival studies, and nesting status. In addition, he surveyed wildlife properties for compliance issues such as fence breaks, trespass livestock, and weed issues, and aided in addressing these issues in the field. He also assisted with other programs of wildlife habitat projects and tasks such as building fences, planting vegetation, and maintaining equipment. Smith performed routine investigative and regulatory duties to prevent damages to fencing and land violations of tribal Natural Resource codes. He coordinated with Natural Resource Enforcement to ensure protection of wildlife and their habitats. He acted as the Wildlife Department’s livestock trespass liaison.

“What I liked most about the job was working out in the environment for my tribe,” Smith said. “I have always loved the outdoors and physical work. I was getting

paid to do what I enjoyed. It doesn’t get much better than that.” He said, “What I’ll miss the most is some of the great people I have met and worked with at F&W; Tribal Police, Natural Resource Enforcement, Forestry, Fire Control, Tribal Veterans Honor Guard, EMS, Bonneville Power Administration, Chief Joseph Dam habitat employees, Ferry County Weed Board, Okanogan County Weed Board, BIA Range personnel, local livestock operators, and many, many others.” Smith enjoys spending time with his family. He also enjoys hunting, exploring, old cars, and hanging out with friends.

JERRY MARCO, Anadromous program manager, will retire this December after working for the Fish and Wildlife department for 36 years. An employee since 1976, Marco has seen the department grow from only a handful of employees to now over 100 with offices throughout the reservation and Spokane. “Once the Tribe signed the Memorandum of Agreement with BPA in 2008 and secured annual funding for the next ten years, the department started to expand its scope. It became even more involved with local and regional F&W issues that affect tribal F&W resources. Over the past five years, both the department infrastructure

and staff have significantly increased due to our greater involvement in regional issues.”

Marco started out as a biologist, the only biologist at the time, and worked his way up to managing the Anadromous Fisheries Division. In his position, he provided oversight to over 35 staffers and a \$17 million annual budget. He was responsible for developing, evaluating and managing habitat assessments, restoration activities, biological studies, research, monitoring and evaluation activities, hydro, hatchery and harvest management. He worked with multiple regional and national level managers in federal, state, county, tribal and other agencies. He also provided recommendations to the F&W director, Colville Business Council and staff on negotiations and agreements with external agencies. Marco provided strategic leadership on projects like the Chief Joseph Hatchery, a \$49 million summer/fall Chinook hatchery designed to produce 2.9 million summer/fall and spring Chinook salmon annually. “When I first started working for the Tribe, I enjoyed the “hands on” management I experienced working with the diverse tribal fish resources that we have in the lakes and rivers/streams here on the Colville Reservation,” he said. “In my later years, I have truly enjoyed providing management oversight for the Anadromous Fish Division and have been very pleased that the program has been successful. It has increased the abundance of salmon and steelhead in tribal fishing areas which helps meet our major goal of improving tribal fishing opportunities.”



Jerry Marco